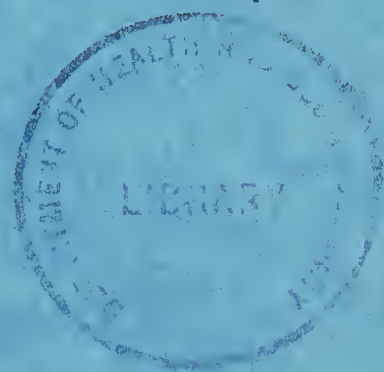


**Urban District Council of
Oswaldtwistle**



ANNUAL REPORTS

1971

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

**Chief Public Health Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent**

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Oswaldtwistle**



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Health Committee

From May, 1971, to April, 1972

Councillor L. SCHOLLES, Chairman

- „ J. ASPINALL
- „ Mrs. D. CLEGG
- „ W. FINCH, M.B.E., C.C.
- „ G. T. GILRANE
- „ J. K. HARGREAVES, A.C.C.S.
- „ E. F. HILL
- „ J. HOGAN
- „ H. HOWORTH
- „ F. KYFFIN
- „ A. NEWSHAM
- „ T. W. RENSHAW
- „ A. R. STONHAM
- „ D. THOMPSON
- „ C. WALSH

Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:

P. M. SAMMON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

B. MAYERS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy to Chief Public Health Inspector:

D. EDMUNDSON, M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Clerk.....Mrs. A. M. BURNETT

Junior Clerk..... Miss E. KELSALL
(from August, 1971)

TOWN HALL,

OSWALDTWISTLE.

August, 1972.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Oswaldtwistle.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the Health and Sanitary Administration of Oswaldtwistle for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

The various rates in this report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1971.

The estimated mid-year population was 14,000, as compared with 13,930 for 1970.

Private development is continuing in several areas of the town and this, together with the houses being built by the Council to re-house occupiers of premises in the clearance areas, should ensure that the population at least remains reasonably steady.

The adjusted Death Rate of 13.4 is lower than last year but still remains higher than the rate for the whole country which was 11.6.

There were no deaths from infectious diseases.

The Birth Rate is lower than last year, being 19.1 per 1,000 as compared with 20.6 per 1,000 in 1970. The rate for England and Wales for 1971 is 16.0 per 1,000. This is the eighth year in succession that the birth rate in Oswaldtwistle has exceeded the figure for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 27 per 1,000 births is an increase of 14 per 1,000 on that for 1970 and the still-birth rate of 13 per 1,000 total births is an increase of 5.

The national figures for infant mortality and still-births are 18.0 per 1,000 live births and 12.0 per 1,000 total births respectively.

The incidence of infectious diseases was generally low and for the twenty-sixth year in succession no cases of diphtheria were notified.

Section A and B of the Report deal with Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area and General Provisions of Health Services in the area.

The Report of the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal is discussed in Section C together with the Report of the Sanitary circumstances in the area. The Housing Report is in Section D, Inspection and Supervision of Food in Section E, and the Report on the Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases in Section F.

Appendix 1 gives details of the inspections made under the Factories Act, 1961, and Appendix 2 deals with the Public Cleansing Services.

Thanks must be expressed to the Engineer and Manager of the Calder Water Board for kindly supplying most of the information and statistics for the section dealing with water supplies.

I wish to convey my thanks to the Public Health Inspectors and the Clerks in the Health Department for their unfailing help in the year, and finally I would also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council and other Officials, for their assistance in the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

P. M. SAMMON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	4,885
Population (Census 1971)	14,010
„ (Estimated middle 1970)	14,000
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Book at the end of 1971	5,413
Rateable Value	£,391,500
Sum represented by a penny rate	£3,771

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the township remain similar to those of previous years, namely, cotton spinning and weaving, chemical manufacturing and the manufacture of bar and shop fittings. Some of the male population find employment in an adjoining area in textile machinery works.

A large part of the area is farmed—mainly dairy farming.

No particular occupation has been noted to have any special influence on the public health.

The population according to the Census of—

1801	was	2710
1851	..	7554
1871	„	10282
1891	„	13296
1911	„	15714
1931	„	14221
1951	„	12133
1961	„	11910
1971	„	14010

Houses Inhabited

1901	...	3067
1921	...	3676
1951	...	4269
1961	...	4612
1967	...	5170
1968	...	5243
1969	...	5352
1970	...	5338
1971	..	5413

Houses Uninhabited

1901	...	297
1921	...	40
1951	...	—
1961	...	51
1967	...	22
1968	...	22
1969	...	60
1970	...	85
1971	...	92

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	} Legitimate ... Illegitimate ... Total	Total		Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	15.9†
		M.	F.		
		202 21	90 11	112 10	
Still Births	223	101	122	
Deaths	3	2	1	
	170	78	92	
				Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still births) Births	13.0
				Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.1*

	Per 1,000 of Population (Adj.)		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Live Birth-rate	Death-rate	Total Rate Per 1,000	Neo-Natal rate per 1,000
			Live Births	Live Births
1969	20.9	14.5	33.0	29.0
1970	20.6	14.2	13.0	8.0
1971	19.1	13.4	27.0	22.0
Increase or decrease in 1971 on previous year	-1.5	-0.8	+14.0	+12.0
England and Wales	16.0	11.6	18.0	12.0

* 1971 Adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor 1.11) = 13.4 per 1,000
† 1971 Adjusted Birth-rate (comparability factor 120) = 19.1 per 1,000

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M	F	Total
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	0	1	1
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	1	1	2
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	1	2
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	4	4
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	2	2
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	0	2
B19(10) Leukeamia	1	0	1
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	6	10
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	1	0	1
B46(3) Mental Disorders	1	0	1
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis	1	0	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	3	4
B27 Hypertensive Disease	1	0	1
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	23	25	48
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	12	15
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	6	14	20
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	6	9
B32 Pneumonia	3	5	8
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	2	12
B33(2) Asthma	1	0	1
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	0	1
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	2	3
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System...	1	0	1
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1	2
B42 Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality.....	1	1	2
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	1	1	2
BE48 All Other Accidents	1	1	2
BE50 All Other External Causes	1	0	1
<hr/>			
TOTAL	78	92	170
<hr/>			

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths under one year: Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0
Deaths under 4 weeks: Legitimate ...	3	3	5
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0
Deaths under 1 week : Legitimate ...	1	2	3
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Medical Director of the Mass Miniature Radiography Service has kindly supplied details of the Contact Surveys carried out in Accrington and District during 1971.

Surveys carried out at three of the large industrial concerns, employing Oswaldtwistle residents, gave the following figures.

FIRM 1 (in Accrington)—1,463 persons X-Rayed

Abnormalities requiring further action:—

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (a) | referred to chest clinic for further investigations ... | 4 |
| (b) | cardiovascular lesions acquired | 1 |
| | referred to own Doctor for further investigations | |
| | if required | |

Abnormalities requiring no further actions:—

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----|
| (a) | healed Tuberculosis | 21 |
| (b) | Bronchiectasis | 2 |
| (c) | Fibrosis | 1 |
| (d) | Pleural Thickening | 2 |

FIRM 2 (in Oswaldtwistle)—354 persons X-rayed

Abnormalities requiring further action:—

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (a) | referred to chest clinic for further investigations... | 6 |
| (b) | cardiovascular lesions acquired | 4 |
| | referred to their own Doctors for further investigations if required | |

(c) Cardiovascular lesions acquired	1
not referred to own Doctor, requiring no further action	

Two already known cases whose films were forwarded to the Chest Clinic for comparison purposes.

Abnormalities requiring no further action:—

(a) Emphysema	1
(b) Pleural Thickening	1

FIRM 3 (in Accrington)—427 persons X-Rayed

Abnormalities requiring further action:—

(a) referred to chest clinic for further investigations...	1
------------------------------------------------------------	---

Abnormalities requiring no further action:—

(a) healed Tuberculosis	7
(b) Pleural Thickening	3
(c) Diaphragmatic Abnormality	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Council:

Medical Officer of Health: P. M. Sammon, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part time Officer. Salary contributed to.

Chief Public Health Inspector, B. Mayers, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Whole time officer.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: D. Edmundson,

M.A.P.H.I. Whole Time Officer.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston, with the exception of sputum examination for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Chest Clinic, Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Chemical analysis is carried out when required by the Public Analyst, Burnley.

The following specimens were submitted for examination:—

Milk for Methylene Blue and B. Coli.	165
„ Phosphatase Test	0
„ Brucella Test	182
„ Turbidity Test	0
Water for bacteria	19
„ Chemical Analysis	0

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service is operated by the Lancashire County Council from Station No. 2, No. 5 Health Division, at Accrington.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—Carried out by 2 District Nurses under the Lancashire County Council.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The nursing of such cases as measles, pneumonia, and puerperal sepsis, is carried out by the District Nurses.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. Maternity and Child Welfare.

	Situation	Accommod't'n	By whom provid	
Chief Centre	Barnfield, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle.	Ample	Owned by the County Council	Meetings & Consultations every Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Ante-natal Clinic, Tuesday a.m.

OTHER CLINICS.

Day Nurseries		None		
School Clinics	Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle	Eye, Ear and Dent'l & Minor Ailm'ts Clinics	County Council	Polio vaccination and immu- nisations—Monthly by appointment.
Tuberculosis	Chest Clinic, Blackburn Royal Infirm'y		Reg. Hospital Board	
Venereal Diseases	Blackburn Royal Infirm'y	At Out-patients Department	Reg. Hospital Board	Twice a week for males and twice a week for females.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Rishton		County Council	
Chiropody Clinic for the elderly				
		Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle		5 Sessions weekly, by appointment

Hospitals.

- (1) Tuberculosis Provided by the Regional Hospital Board.
- (2) Maternity None
- (3) Children ,

- (4) Infectious Diseases ... Cases are sent to Blackburn Hospital when difficulty in isolating at home arises.

- (5) Other Hospitals available for the District:—

Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Accrington Victoria Hospital.

Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.

Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Bull Hill, Darwen—Maternity.

Bramley Meade, Whalley—Maternity.

Accrington Municipal Maternity Home.

Midwives.

There is one resident midwife, and others residing in adjoining districts cover part of the township. Domiciliary mid-wifery appears to be adequate, although hospital accommodation is limited. This service is under the control of the County Council.

Report
of the
Chief Public Health Inspector

August, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Ninth Annual Report.

Once again I feel I can report reasonable progress in improving conditions in the town although one or two matters still give rise to concern. The condition of a number of the older houses, atmospheric pollution from dwellings and the indiscriminate dumping of rubbish and litter are some of the problems which require attention. In addition, we must echo the concern of the Rivers Authorities at the increasing load the sewerage works is having to carry and also at the growing volume of sewage being borne by the main sewers, both of which could result in more serious pollution of the water courses if action is not taken soon. Unfortunately the only immediate action appears to be a slowing down of development and redevelopment in the town which is regrettable.

On the staff side it was found necessary during the year to engage a Junior Clerk/Typist to assist with the ever increasing paper work and in August Miss E. Kelsall joined the Department.

In April the Union Road (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order, which included 56 properties, was confirmed. This was an extension of the Union Road Nos. 1 and 2 Orders which had been confirmed previously. Later in the year negotiations started for the acquisition of a further block of 25 houses which were considered to be sub-standard and incapable of improvement. A number of individual houses were also purchased at the request of the owners.

Redevelopment started on the cleared sites of the first Union Road Compulsory Purchase Orders and when completed there should be a marked improvement in the appearance of this part of the main road through the town.

Discussions took place late in the year on a proposed General Improvement Area and it is hoped that the one chosen, containing almost 600 older houses close to the town centre, will become a reality in the immediate future.

The No. 2 Smoke Control Order became operative in July.

This Order included almost 500 dwellings and was immediately adjacent to the first Order made. A third Order was submitted and confirmed, this also containing just under 500 houses. It becomes operative in July, 1972. A further Order was made in November covering a further 500 houses but at the end of the year it had not been confirmed. Whilst this progress may appear reasonable, at the present rate it is going to take approximately another 6 or 7 years before the domestic smoke pollution is fully controlled. This is one aspect of Public Health work where progress could be speeded up as there is no doubt of the benefits which come with smoke control.

With regard to Public Cleansing, an integral part of public health work, 52 weekly collections of household refuse were again made, casual labour being employed over the holiday period to provide a continuous service. With the trend towards staggered holidays it is essential that there be no break in the service and a weekly collection should be a minimum standard.

With Local Government Re-organisation in mind regular meetings were held by the Senior Public Health Inspectors of the six Local Authorities in the area and among the projects discussed was one which could result in a joint system of refuse disposal. A fair measure of agreement was reached by the end of the year when steps were being taken with a view to acquiring further tipping space in Oswaldtwistle at the same time as consideration was being given to an extension of the incinerator of one of the authorities. Eventually it is hoped that this plant will adequately cope with the refuse from the area with the residue and incombustibles being deposited at the tip.

Local Government re-organisation in the near future appears now to be a distinct possibility and there should be far greater opportunities for co-operation and mutual assistance between authorities even prior to the amalgamations which will take place. Refuse disposal is one field where this is essential if the best use it to be made of the plant and the available tipping areas.

Thanks are due to my Deputy, Mr. D. Edmundson, the Senior Clerk, Mrs. Burnett, who keeps the office running

smoothly, Miss Kelsall, the Junior Clerk/Typist and the Cleansing Department Foreman, Mr. E. Ingham, who supervises the outside staff. All, by their efforts and help, have made my job that much easier during the year.

My thanks are also due to Councillor Scholes, the Chairman of the Health Committee, for his encouragement during the year, all the members of the Health Committee who take such an interest in our work and to my colleagues in the other Departments of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

B. MAYERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water authority for the District is the Calder Water Board which came into being on the 1st April, 1963.

Prior to the breaching of the Warmwithins Reservoir in 1970 water was supplied to Oswaldtwistle from the following sources.

1. Jackhouse Reservoir (capacity 58 million gallons) provides approximately 200,000 gallons per day as a low level supply to the district in the vicinity of Union Road.
2. Cocker Cobbs Reservoir (capacity 11 million gallons) provides approximately 400,000 gallons per day as a high level supply to Stanhill, Knuzden and Broadfield. In addition treated water from Jackhouse Reservoir can be pumped at Town Bent to Cocker Cobbs Reservoir should this reservoir be depleted in dry weather.
3. Sharn Hall Treatment Works at Church supplies properties immediately adjacent to the district boundary and this supply can be extended into the district supplied from Jackhouse should this be required.
4. A bulk supply of treated water is taken on the district boundary at Guide from the Fylde Water Board and is pumped to the village of Belthorn.
5. Water is obtained from the Board's Mitchells Reservoir in Accrington via a booster station at Green Haworth to supply the properties in the Cross Edge District.
6. A new service reservoir at Willows Lane, Accrington, was brought into service in 1969 to improve the supplies into Oswaldtwistle.
7. In addition to normal mains extensions for housing development, a 10" main was laid in 1969 in Union Road, to improve the distribution of water into Oswaldtwistle.

Since 1970 however the water supply to Oswaldtwistle has continued to present many problems.

This problem had been appreciated and arrangements were made for a 12 inch diameter pipeline to be laid from Willows Lane, Accrington, to Union Road, Oswaldtwistle, together with a length of 8 inch diameter main in Catlow Hall Street. Con-

sequently, the situation is now as follows.

1. All water stored in Cocker Cobbs, Jackhouse, Foxhill Bank, Higher and Lower Antley Reservoirs is passed to Sharn Hall Treatment Works, at approximately 900,000 gallons per day, from whence it is pumped to the 3,000,000 gallon Willows Lane Service Reservoir. This water then feeds by gravity most of the Urban District.
2. Water from the above distribution network is re-pumped at Town Bent to the Cocker Cobbs Service Reservoir, from whence it feeds as a high level supply to Broadfield and part of Stanhill.
3. Under normal circumstances, the supply to Knuzden and the remainder of Stanhill would come from the Cocker Cobbs Service Reservoir, but, at present, a "short term mutual aid supply" from the Fylde Water Board supplies this area.

Treated water is still taken from the Fylde Water Board at Guide and pumped to the village of Belthorn and the Cross Edge district is supplied from the Board's Mitchells Reservoir in Accrington via a booster station at Green Haworth.

* * *

The contract for the Re-conditioning of the Sludge Lodge, Foxhill Bank, Higher and Lower Antley Reservoirs has proceeded slowly, but, by the end of the year, the work on Sludge Lodge, Foxhill Bank and Higher Antley Reservoirs was substantially complete. This means that the Tinker Brook, as far down as Mill Hill is used for carrying water intended for the potable supply, and it is, therefore, obvious that the greatest care must be taken to preserve the quality of this water. The Board have received every co-operation from the Lancashire River Authority, but nevertheless, there have been two incidents of oil pollution and one of a dilute solution of "latex".

Apart from these liquid pollutants the indiscriminate tipping of rubbish along the banks of the brook is to be deplored as this could also lead to serious contamination of the water.

In addition to the risk of contamination the visual amenities are being affected by this dumping and all the people of Oswaldtwistle must be encouraged to play their part in making the position of the "dumpers" intolerable.

Separate Services.

11 Grants under Section 96 of the Housing Act, 1964, were paid during 1971 to owners providing themselves with a separate service.

Over the years extra fittings have been installed in many properties on joint supplies and these have put too heavy a burden on the supply pipes which themselves are possibly reduced in diameter due to silting up.

The cost of providing a separate service can be an expensive job however, and the grant payable under Section 96 could perhaps be increased to encourage more owners to take advantage of the scheme.

Water Sampling.

The samples of water taken from the mains were all satisfactory but some private supplies are liable to contamination and it should be the aim eventually to supply all dwellings, including the isolated farms and cottages, with mains water.

Sampling Results.

Public Supply — Bacteriological.

Results			
	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	14	14	Nil

Public Supply — Chemical

Results			
	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	0	0	0

Private Supplies — Bacteriological

Results			
	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	5	3	2

No. of dwelling-houses supplied from public water
mains direct to houses 5,369

No. or inhabitants in these houses 13,840

There are no houses supplied from the public water mains by means of standpipes, but it is estimated that there are approximately 94 dwellings on private water supplies, the number of inhabitants of these dwellings being 170.

Fluoride Contents of mains supply:

Cocker Cobbs	0.20 p.p.m.	
Jackhouse.....	0.11 p.p.m.	..

Rainfall, 1971.

January	3.78	September	1.29
February	3.17	October	5.07
March	3.19	November	4.12
April	2.76	December	1.53
May	2.94		
June	2.75		—
July	2.06	Total.....	37.91
August	5.25		—

For comparison, the total rainfall in 1970 was 53.16 inches.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, Council and private housing development continued and 135 new dwellings were connected to the sewerage system.

On the 1st April, 1970, the Mid-Calder and Hyndburn Joint Sewerage Board came into being but the Aspen Valley works continued to be run by the Council up to 31st December, 1970. The new Board accepted responsibility for the works as from the 1st January, 1971.

No progress was made with regard to the provision of a sewer to the Cross Edge area which, together with the Duckworth Hall area, is without a proper sewerage system.

A weekly service for the emptying of pail closets is provided without charge by the Council to the residents in the rural areas and septic tanks are also emptied without charge on request. One new tank was installed in 1971 to replace a pail closet.

Rivers and Streams.

There are two main streams flowing through the district, the Tinker and Smithy Brooks.

Both these streams are frequently misused due to rubbish being deposited therein and it would seem there is also evidence of industrial pollution on occasions.

Shops Act, 1950.

Shops were inspected under the above Act. There were no contraventions as regards ventilation and temperature or sanitary accommodation.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Two private residential sites are licenced providing accommodation for 35 caravans.

Both these sites are used by travelling salesmen who stay for varying periods of time. There is no doubt that well run sites such as these provide a very useful service.

Both sites are well organised and no complaints at all were received during the year regarding the way they were run.

In addition one licence for a single van was issued.

Once again considerable time was spent in moving itinerant caravan dwellers from open areas in the town. No Local Authority owned sites are available and whilst the owners of the two private sites have helped and co-operated with the Department it has not been possible to accommodate these travellers on licensed sites.

Whilst control must be exercised over itinerant caravans it was felt at times that the nuisance and public health risks caused by two or three caravans stopping for short periods on open land was over-emphasised by a number of people.

The sight of a caravan travelling up the main road was generally sufficient reason for complaints to be received with demands that the caravans be kept moving.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

22 observations were made during the year.

Very little trouble was experienced as a result of industrial pollution apart from the complaints received from the vicinity of a large chemical manufacturing concern. Co-operation between this firm and the Department has been good however, and we have appreciated the help and advice of the Alkali Works Inspector throughout the year.

Smoke Control Areas.

The No. 2 Smoke Control Order became operative on the 1st July, 1971. The Order included almost 500 dwellings in the West End area of Oswaldtwistle adjacent to the first Order made which became operative the previous year.

A further Order, the No. 3 Smoke Control Order was made, submitted to the Ministry and confirmed which again had the effect of enlarging on the first two Orders. This one becomes operative on 1st July, 1972, and at that time virtually the whole of the West End and Stanhill areas of the town will be covered by Smoke Control Orders.

The No. 3 Smoke Control Order covered 244 acres and 416 properties. By the end of the year the survey of the No. 4 Area was completed and the Order made but had not been submitted to the Ministry for confirmation. A further 500 properties are in this Order and when confirmed a total of 1858 properties will be in confirmed area as follows:

	Proper- ties	Acre- age	Con- firmed	Opera- tive
No. 1 Smoke Control Order	360	54.58	16/1/70	1/9/70
No. 2 Smoke Control Order	539	101.56	19/3/70	1/7/71
No. 3 Smoke Control Order	406	244.40	22/9/71	1/7/72
No. 4 Smoke Control Order	553	243.70	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Totals.....	1858	644.24		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		

The full programme contains almost 5,400 houses so it can be seen that at the present rate of about 500 houses per year the town will not be fully covered by Smoke Control Orders before 1978. I believe this work, which benefits all age groups and all levels of society, could be speeded up. The improvement in the West End of Oswaldtwistle is already very noticeable and it would be pleasant to see similar improvement in conditions throughout the rest of the town.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

79 premises are registered under the Act and 41 of these received one or more general inspections during 1971. A total of 94 visits of all kinds were made to these registered premises.

It is still rather surprising to find that the town is so accident free in this type of occupation. Only one accident was reported during the year and it is hoped that this is because the town is accident free and not because the employers have failed to notify the Department.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of inspections of Registered premises
Offices	1	17	8
Retail Shops	0	49	23
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ...	0	2	0
Catering establ. & Canteens ...	1	11	10
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	79	41

Number of visits of all kinds to Registered Premises, 94

Persons employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	49
Retail Shops	117
Wholesale Departments, warehouses	13
Catering establishments	33
Canteens	16
Fuel Storage Depots	0
	<hr/>
Total...	228

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district.

Schools.

These are adequately dealt with by the School Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council.

Routine inspection of school children is carried out by the School Medical Officer of Health, and when necessary by the District Medical Officer of Health. The School M.O.H. and District M.O.H. co-operate with regard to school closure in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school.

Storage of Petroleum Spirit.

No new licences were issued during 1971 31 licences were renewed covering the storage of 70,080 gallons of petrol in tanks and 90 gallons in cans.

During the year a number of tanks which had been installed for over 20 years were tested and as a result two tanks were replaced and two other tanks were taken out of use.

In addition minor works were required to be carried out at a number of petrol filling stations.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act.

Three Establishments are licensed under the Act for the boarding of 67 dogs and 100 cats.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

7 persons are registered as scrap metal dealers.

Sanitary Inspections during 1971.

No. of premises visited.....	2,373
No. of visits	2,578
Defects or nuisances discovered	374
Defects or nuisances abated ...	357

No. of notices served:—

(a) Informal	366
(b) Statutory	8

Interviews held:—

1. General	199
2. Housing	366
3. Cleansing	251
4. Smoke Control	104

Classification of Visits:

Housing—Public Health Act (Primary Inspections)	787
or Housing Acts	
„ (Re-inspections)	92
Drainage	185
Factories	21
Dairies	3
Food Hygiene Visits	207
Tips	110
Miscellaneous	72
Shops	31

Offices	17
Rodent Control	10
Smoke Observations	22
Atmospheric Pollution Visits	44
Public Conveniences	48
Civic Amenities Act	44
Food Inspection	15
Public Cleansing Visits	316
Milk Samples	182
Water Samples	19
Water Supplies	40
Conversions of W.W.C's to W.C's	17
Conversions of Pails to W.C's	0
Petroleum Acts	66
Infectious Diseases	22
Caravans	84
Schools	7
Standard or Improvement Grants	113
Animal Boarding Establishments	6
Noise Nuisances	3
Farms	4
Scrap Metal Dealers	1
Smoke Control	813

Nuisances and Defects discovered and Abated:

	Discovered	Abated
Defective Roofs	0	2
Eavesgutters	1	1
Defective Ceiling Plaster	3	3
„ Wall Plaster	1	1
„ Drains	12	10
Choked Drains	319	311
Defective Chimneys and Flues	0	0
„ W.C's	1	0
„ Sinks	0	0
„ window frames	3	3
„ Doors	1	2
„ Floors	0	1
„ Rainwater Pipes	3	1
„ Walls	0	1

Dampness	12	...	6
Accumulations	9	..	5
Abandoned Vehicles	13	...	12
			moved
Noise Nuisances	0	...	0
Inadequate Water Supply	1	...	0

Closet Accommodation.

17 waste water closets were converted during 1971. The grant of £20 paid by the Authority would not seem to provide sufficient incentive to owners to have these fittings replaced.

Usually conversion takes place when the waste water closet is hopelessly blocked and irreparable. The operator still spends considerable time on blocked drains, many associated with waste water closets, and the gully emptier is also frequently involved in emptying the shafts of these fittings.

52 collections from pail closets were made during the year and it is pleasing to see that the number of these containers is slowly being reduced.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1971.

No. of pail closets	147
No. of moveable ashbins for refuse	6603
No. of fresh water closets.....	4575
No. of waste water closets.....	1174

Conversions.

	During the year 1971
No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	0
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	17

Rodent Control — Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A full years service was again provided by a private servicing company for the control of rodents in private dwellings. Sewer treatments were also carried out by these contractors.

The system worked very well and no persistent complaints of rats or mice were received. All complaints were dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Infestation Treatments.

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of Properties inspected following notification	254	0
Number infested by: Rats	132	0
Mice	120	0

North East Lancs. Advisory Committee on Pest Control:

Councillor W. Finch, M.B.E., C.C., Councillor L. Scholes and the Chief Public Health Inspector were the Council's representatives on this Committee.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

The necessity for securing the repair or demolition of unfit houses and improving the general standard of housing accommodation throughout the district.

Complete the conversion of waste water closets and pail closets wherever practicable.

Abatement of atmospheric pollution particularly from domestic premises.

Provision of main's water and sewerage to rural areas.

SECTION D—HOUSING

Following the completion of the 5 year programme in 1970 which saw 208 properties included in four Compulsory Purchase Orders, very little progress was made in 1971 towards clearing the further areas of bad housing which are still very much in evidence.

Negotiations opened with the owners of 25 houses in one block but this is a very slow process and difficulties arose where houses becoming empty were vandalised and became an eyesore and a danger. It appeared at the end of the year that Compulsory Purchase powers would have to be used if the area was to be made safe and cleared within a reasonable time.

In potential Clearance Areas the acquisition and closing of houses offered to the Authority by owners is a useful exercise. Each house dealt with in this way is one less unfit dwelling used for habitation but the policy of trying to acquire blocks of properties under different ownerships by this means has not been successful.

The number of unfit or sub-standard houses in Oswaldtwistle is one of the main problems facing the Authority. The low standard of housing in the area has been accepted as "normal" for too long. Arguments that waste water closets at the bottom of the yard can be considered as satisfactory sanitary accommodation, or that because we live in a high rainfall area we must expect the houses to be damp, are very hard to swallow at this time.

These ideas have been put forward however, and they are an indication of the low standards which have been accepted. Whilst publicity regarding grants is perhaps helping people to appreciate that they can expect to live in decent houses, there are still too many sub-standard, two-up, two-down cottages which are just not suitable for improvement and which should be cleared.

It is hoped that a more determined effort can be made over the next few years to see that the housing standards in Oswaldtwistle are raised considerably.

It is very pleasing to report that a start on the implementation of General Improvement Areas is to be made. A report was submitted to Health Committee late in 1970 recommending that an area of the town appeared to be one suitable as a General Improvement Area. The report was deferred for six months but late in 1971, following further consideration, it was decided to go ahead with the scheme which will be known as the St. Paul's General Improvement Area covering almost 600 houses in part of the St. Paul's Ward.

The houses are in the main substantial, stone built terraced dwellings, many being of the three-up, three-down type, a good number already having the standard amenities and many being owner/occupied.

The area is centrally situated close to the shops, schools, park, churches, etc., on two sides adjoining comparatively new development and also adjacent to clearance areas which are being redeveloped with Council housing. Consultants have been engaged to put the plans into operation and it is hoped that considerable improvements will be made to the area generally which will make it a far more pleasant neighbourhood in which to live.

Other parts of the town would lend themselves to this sort of scheme and there is no doubt that these possibilities will be examined in the future.

New private development continued but the inadequacy of the existing sewage works and the overloading of the main trunk sewers could lead to a slow-down in development. This would be unfortunate as it could also affect future slum clearance policies. As Oswaldtwistle is one of the few Authorities in N.E. Lancs., in which there has been a population growth over recent years, it would be unfortunate, to say the least, if private development as well as Council house building had to be curtailed. It has been a pleasing feature to note that Oswaldtwistle is considered now to be a desirable residential area by many people.

Everything possible should be done to overcome the difficulties caused by the inadequate sewer and sewerage works facilities.

Apart from the improvement of a number of Council owned dwellings it is still very disturbing that virtually no tenanted properties are being improved by landlords. Whilst the percentage of owner/occupiers in the town is comparatively high there are still many tenants living in basically sound but ill-maintained houses lacking facilities. The standard of maintenance of many of these tenanted properties is very low.

Housing Statistics for the year 1971.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

	Houses	Flats
(1) By Local Authority	0 ...	40
(2) By other Local Authorities...	0 ...	0
(3) By other persons	95 ...	0
Total No. of dwellings owned by L. Authority ...		502

I—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

1.	(a)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	55
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	69
2.		Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit in respect of which:	
	(a)	Dem., Clear., or Closing Orders have been made ...	143
	(b)	No. (or estimated number) of other unfit houses at end of year	302
3.		No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	54

II—Clearance Areas.

1.	No. of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:	
	(a) Unfit houses	0
	(b) Other houses	0
2.	No. of persons displaced	147

III—Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

1. Houses demolished or closed during year:

		No. of:-	
		Houses	Persons Displaced
(a)	Housing Act, 1957:		
	(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 17(i))	4	
	(ii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health and demolished		8
	(iii) Unfit houses closed under Sec. 16 (4), 17(1) & 35(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	3	
	(iv) Unfit houses closed under Sec. 17(3) and 26 of the Housing Act, 1957	1	1
	(v) Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	0	0
		0	0

2. Repairs during the year:

	No. of houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	23
(b) Public Health Acts — action after service of formal notice — Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By Owners	4
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners...	0
(c) Housing Act, 1957 — action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16): Houses made fit:—	
(i) By Owners	0
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners...	0

1 unfit dwelling was made “fit” and an “undertaking not to relet” was determined.

IV—Unfit houses in temporary use—Housing Act, 1957:

1. No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation under Sect. 48 and Sect. 17(a)	0
2. No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 34 or 53)	0

Purchase of Houses by Agreement:

	No. of Houses	No. of Occu- piers
Houses in Clearance areas other than those in confirmed orders or Com- pulsory Purchase Orders	0	0

Rent Act, 1957.

No certificates of Disrepair were issued during the year and no certificates were cancelled.

Standard Grants:—

Applications received	72
Applications approved	72
Works completed	76

Improvement Grants:—

Applications received from private individuals	50
Approved by Local Authority	48

Applications submitted by Local Authority to Ministry	8
Approved by Ministry	8
Work completed:	
1, By private individuals	8
2. By Local Authority	0

General Improvement Areas:

One area was declared containing approximately 560 dwellings.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

The regular routine for the sampling of milk which has operated since 1968 continued throughout 1971.

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston for the Methylene Blue Test and for tests for *Brucella Abortus*.

The results of the Methylene Blue test on raw milk samples have been reasonably satisfactory, the 21 unsatisfactory results usually being found to be isolated failures at farms. No farm regularly failed the test.

Failures are noticed to the County Dairy Husbandry Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food whose Officers check on the farms concerned.

The Methylene Blue results over the past four years have been as follows :—

1968,	48 failures out of 131 samples
1969,	35 failures out of 179 samples
1970,	8 failures out of 113 samples
1971,	21 failures out of 139 samples.

Once again however, brucella infected milk was sampled from retailers on the streets. Considerable improvements have been made over recent years in reducing the number of such samples but every failure indicates that many persons are placed at risk to what can be a very nasty illness. In 1971, out of the 182 samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the brucella tests, 10 were culture positive.

Co-operation from the farmers has generally been good, most being very willing to try to isolate and remove the positive animals from the herd.

In one instance, however, it was necessary for a "Pasteurisation Order" under the Milk and Dairies Regulations to be served on one farm.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations.

There are 50 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Three of these premises are also registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Sixty-seven routine inspections were made in connection with these registered premises and 6 ice-cream samples were taken from the manufacturers all of which were Grade I.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following table shows the number of premises on the register at the end of the year:—

Butchers—Manfs. of sausages, etc.	14
Bakehouses	20
Ice Cream premises	50
Ice Cream Manufacturers	3

Food Hygiene Regulations:

213 visits were made to food premises under the above Legislation.

Generally the standard was reasonable although contraven- tions were found in many of the premises visited. Most of these were of a minor nature however, and it was not felt necessary to institute proceedings in any case. The persons in charge of food premises were usually most co-operative and a number of improvements were effected.

It was noticeable however, that a number of premises were short of basic amenities such as wash hand basins and hot water and a number were required to clean and re-decorate food rooms and sanitary accommodation.

At the end of the year some premises were still not of the required standard but food hygiene work is a continuous process and it seems unlikely that we shall ever reach the position where we can say we are completely satisfied.

Perhaps one of the most disappointing aspects of the year's work was to find that the sanitary accommodation at a number of Public Houses was far below standard. Improvements in a number of these premises have been made but there are still too many with inadequate or out-dated sanitary accommodation.

The figures for contraventions found and remedied in all types of food premises during 1971 are as follows:—

	Found	Remedied
Dirty Premises	12	3
Dirty Fittings	15	8
No Hot Water	8	4
Inadequate Wash Hand Basins	46	13
Inadequate Sinks	7	3
Inadequate Lighting	7	1
Lack of First-Aid Equipment	50	29
Dirty Walls	35	23
Dirty Ceilings	62	50

Inadequate Dustbins	4	7
Defective Floors	48	29
Inadequate Ventilation	18	6
No Soap, Nailbrush, etc.	17	13
No "Wash Your Hands" Notices	43	22
Dirty Equipment	23	27
Dirty Sanitary Accommodation	65	22
No "outdoor clothing" accommodation ...	12	8
Food not protected	13	11
Dirty Clothing	1	1

Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year, and number of visits made.

	Premises	Visits
Greengrocers and fruiterers (inc. wet fish, game, etc.)	12	20
General grocers and provision dealers	55	45
Fishmongers (inc. poultry, game, etc.)	1	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and pre-served meals, etc.	14	22
Bakers and/or Confectioners	20	36
Fried Fish Shops	9	19
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	25	30
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	62	30
Ice Cream Manufacturers	3	10
Others	0	0

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Regular sampling of Food and Drugs was carried out by the County Public Health Inspectors and a total of 81 samples were obtained in the District, comprising 73 milks and 8 other samples as follows:—

- 1 Mushroom Soup, canned
- 1 Oxtail Soup, canned
- 1 Stewed Steak, canned
- 1 Syrup of Figs
- 1 Zinc & Castor Oil Cream B.P.
- 1 Cheddar Cheese
- 1 Aspirin Tablets, B.P.
- 1 Whipping Cream

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :—

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicates 1.6% extraneous water	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained
Whipping Cream	Milk Fat content 42% Inconspicuous name. The name of the food under the Cream Regulations is "Whipping Cream" and this is therefore the "Appropriate designation" for the purpose of Regulation 3 of the Labelling of Food Regulations 1970. From Jan., 1973, the minimum height of the lettering will need to be 3mm. (instead of the 2.2mm. as at present) and the name will have to be conspicuous in relation to other lettering on the container.	Packer communicated with
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicates 0.3% extraneous water.	Further samples obtained

Foods condemned :—

Meat	13 lbs.
Canned Meats	84 lbs.
Frozen Foods	853 lbs.
Other Foods	112 lbs.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified for the twenty-sixth year in succession. Immunisation of children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council at their Barnfield House Clinic.

Enteric (including Paratyphoid) Fever.

No cases of paratyphoid fever were notified in 1971.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc.

There was 1 case of measles notified during the year.

Dysentery.

One case was notified.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

Small-pox.

No cases of small-pox occurred during the year, and no action was necessary under the Small-pox Prevention Regulations.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases were notified.

Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations.

No cases of acute pneumonia were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) notified during the year.

Infective Jaundice.

One case was reported during 1971.

SECTION F.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total Under												Total Deaths
	cases notified	1— yr.	2— yrs.	3— yrs.	4— yrs.	5— yrs.	10— yrs.	15— yrs.	20— yrs.	25— yrs.	55— yrs.	75— yrs.	
Scarlet Fever	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Res.) ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (other) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infective Jaundice	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	7	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Prevention of Blindness.

No action necessary during the year.

Cancer.

There were 32 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

During 1971, one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified.

At the end of the year the number of cases remaining on the register was as follows:—

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
10	5	2	7	0	3	3

APPENDIX I.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises	No. on Reg.	Inspections	Written Notices
(i)	Factories under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	7	1	0
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	81	19	4
(iii)	Other Premises	1	1	1
Total ...		89	21	5

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Sanitary Conveniences :—

Particulars	Found	Remedied
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2
Totals ...	4	3

4. Outwork. Sections 133 and 134.

No. of Outworkers Nil

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION & STREET CLEANSING 1st April, 1971 to 31st March, 1972

Public Cleansing.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of household refuse and also collects and disposes of certain trade refuse.

A weekly service is provided for the emptying of all dustbins and, in addition, the weekly emptying of pail closets from areas of the District where sewers are not available.

Street scavenging, gully emptying and the cleansing and maintenance, of the four public conveniences within the District are also included in the Public Cleansing Services.

The vehicles in use are as follows:—

Two Dennis/Shefflex “fore and aft” refuse collection vehicles.

One Shelvoke and Drewery refuse collection vehicle.

One Karrier/Dennis Gully/Cesspool emptier.

One Lewin mechanical street-sweeper.

One Massey-Ferguson Wheeled Tractor.

One Bedford 8 cwt. van.

One International Harvester 125 tracked machine for use on the tip.

In August, consideration was given to the replacement of one of the “fore and aft” refuse collection vehicles and an order was placed for a 25 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewery Machine.

The Lewin Mechanical Orderly street sweeper was off the road for several weeks early in the year and an order was placed for its replacement with a Johnston Suction Cleaner.

Neither of these machines had been delivered by the end of the year.

Collection of Refuse.

The Department once again completed 52 collections of household rubbish during 1971.

Normal collections were made during the two week annual holiday period and this service was much appreciated by the many residents who now take their holidays at times other than these recognised weeks. Members of the staff wishing to take their holidays at this time were allowed to do so and casual labour was employed to fill the gap.

During 1971 further trade refuse collections were undertaken and this too is a service much appreciated by the small businesses in the Town. Extra collections for which charges are made are provided for many of the shops and a number of the factories, and were maintained for 52 weeks on request.

It is still disappointing to find so much indiscriminate dumping of unwanted articles such as beds, mattresses and three-piece suites deposited on open pieces of land, despite the well publicised free collection service provided. Normally requests to move mattresses etc., are dealt with within 24-48 hours and all such work is usually cleared by each Saturday lunchtime.

A notice drawing householders attention to this service is delivered with each new dustbin provided under the Municipal Bin Scheme and as over 3,400 such bins are now in use well over half the householders in the town have had personal notification.

It would seem that some persons must put themselves to considerable inconvenience to take unwanted furniture to open land before they will telephone, call at, or write to the office.

Fortunately no undue difficulties have been experienced with abandoned vehicles. 12 such cars have been removed by a local scrap merchant without charge at the request of the Department.

Refuse Disposal.

The controlled tip at Duckworth Hall continued to serve as the main refuse disposal point in Oswaldtwistle during 1971.

The tip was generally kept in good condition by the International Harvester 125 tracked loading shovel and no tip fires were reported and there were few signs of rodent infestation.

The Machine was garaged at the tip in the new paper baling depot/garage which was erected at the entrance to the site and which came into operation early in 1971.

Considerable quantities of refuse were disposed of by tipping at Duckworth Hall including refuse from neighbouring Authorities in the Hyndburn Area. Discussions and negotiations took place during the year to try to arrive at a common refuse disposal policy for the six Authorities in the group. There is no doubt that tipping space is becoming scarce and the best possible use must be made of suitable land. It is hoped that the existing tip can be extended into an adjoining quarry where operations for the removal of sand were coming to an end. At the same time it is anticipated that an incineration plant in the area will be extended to cope with combustible refuse from all the Authorities. This plant, together with the several controlled tips in the area, should cope adequately with at least domestic and commercial refuse from the whole of the area for some time to come.

In the meantime, however, careful watch will have to be kept to ensure that an economic rate of fill and an even balance between domestic and trade waste is maintained at the tip.

Municipal Bin Scheme.

1971 was the fifth year of the scheme and during the year 622 bins were issued without charge. In addition, 30 extra bins were sold.

Since the scheme started 3,447 bins have been distributed as follows :—

1967	856
1968	732
1969	678
1970	559
1971	622

3¼ cu. ft. capacity plastic bins have been used since the scheme started which now means that over half the dwellings in the town are equipped with this kind of container.

With the extension of the smoke control areas and the still increasing use of disposable containers and packages, these lighter but larger capacity bins have helped considerably to cut down on the extra boxes and the like previously used as “overflow” containers at dwellings.

As an experiment, a number of new Council dwellings were provided with plastic sacks for use as bin-liners and, as this appeared to be successful, plans were made to extend this system to the other Council estates.

Later, if the scheme is still successful, it is hoped to extend the scheme to the private estates within the town.

Salvage.

The quantity of paper baled and sold remained fairly steady throughout 1971 as compared with the previous year.

Whilst no sorting of refuse is carried out, all clean paper and cardboard left by householders and shopkeepers is collected and sold. It is doubtful whether a profit could be made out of these salvaged materials but the operation is looked upon as a reasonably cheap and very convenient method of disposing of a waste product which has to be collected in any case. Paper in particular can cause a serious nuisance when tipped and efforts are made to keep as much off the tip as possible.

Apart from these advantages, a bonus scheme, payable twice a year, is operated whereby the cleansing staff benefit from the sales of paper, rags and metals.

Just over £1,029 was shared between the men during 1971.

Salvage Comparisons.

		1962/63	1970/71	1971/72
Paper:	Wt.	58 tons	189 tons	231 tons
	Value	£340	£1778	£2195
Metal:	Wt.	1½ tons	20 tons	8¾ tons
	Value	£35	£231	£99
Regs:	Wt.	1¼ tons	5½ tons	5¾ tons
	Value	£24	£134	£131
TOTAL VALUE:		£399	£2143	£2425

Street Cleansing and Gully Emptying.

The gully emptying and street cleansing services operated reasonably well during the year although at times it was necessary to use the drivers of these machines on refuse collection when other drivers were absent. Some difficulties were experienced early in the year due to the breakdown of the Lewin Sweeper but fortunately we were able to borrow a similar machine from a neighbouring Authority.

Complaints of blocked gullies were dealt with within 24 hours and every effort was made to keep the streets reasonably clean. Unfortunately at times the quantity of litter deposited in the streets led to some complaints and despite providing extra litter bins and making an appeal through the schools, clubs, factories, etc., this appeared to be one problem which has not yet been solved.

It seems an almost impossible task to convince people that littering the streets is a dirty and unnecessary habit and that the cost of clearing up their litter is an expensive business.

The following shows the mileage of the roads and streets which are cleansed by the Health Department:—

Blackburn Road (A679)	1.96 miles
Haslingden Old Road (A677)	4.22 miles
Union Road and New Lane (B6231)	2.55 miles
Stanhill and Stanhill Lane (B6234)	1.70 miles
Class III Roads, No. 1 and 3	2.40 miles
Public Streets	17.15 miles
	<hr/>
	29.98 miles
	<hr/>

